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Subj - German China-Society Founded in Hamburg

(CNC) - W. GERM.

A new German China-Society (Deutsche China-Gesellschaft) to promote friendly cultural and commercial relations with Communist China was established in Hamburg on September 7, 1957. Among others on the founding committee were Wolf SCHENKE, editor-publisher of the neutralist weekly Neue Politik, Hermann SCHWANN, FDP Bundestag member, and retired Ambassador Werner-Otto von HENTIG. Dr. Hjalmar SCHACHT was listed as a member of the committee but was not present at the founding meeting, which was attended by about 70 persons representing business, academic, and professional circles. A few newspapermen were present, as was an observer from the Consulate General.

RIKY
Adm. and
MEMBER OF
FOUNDING
COMMITTEE -
DEUTSCHE
CHINA-
GESELLSCHAFT
W. GERM.

The main speaker, Wolf Schenke, spoke of the growing importance of China for the world and Germany and the consequent need for promotion of closer relations with China. The tenor of the general discussion that followed Schenke's speech was that Germany needed a new organization with unofficial contacts with China, particularly since the Federal Republic had no diplomatic relations with the "new" China. The main emphasis of the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft would be on cultural relations, but commercial contacts would not be neglected. The Federal Republic's "do-nothing" policy toward China was deplored, and the (Nationalist) China committee recently established by Bundestag member Ernst MAJONICA, CDU, was ridiculed, particularly by Hermann Schwann who also criticized the selection of a military man, General von FALKENHAUSEN, as chairman of the Bonn group.

Wolf Schenke and Hermann Schwann were elected First and Second Chairmen, respectively, of the provisional executive committee, with new elections foreseen for early 1958. (A list of committee members is attached as enclosure 1.) Schenke and Schwann appear to have been the chief promoters of the new group.

According to a statement published by the founding committee before the September 7 meeting (a translation is attached as enclosure 2) two members of the committee (Schenke and Schwann) met in Peking in 1956 with representatives of the Communist government and were given assurances by

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(enc.)
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"high individuals right up to the Prime Minister (Minister-President)" that a German China-Society would be welcomed and that the Chinese "Society for Foreign Relations" would be commissioned to maintain contact with the proposed German organization. More recently in Switzerland, according to the same statement, a close colleague of Chou En-lai again assured Schenke that Peking would do everything possible to cooperate with the China-Gesellschaft as soon as it was established, and that a delegation from the group would be welcome in China. (An article in the September 14 issue of Neue Politik states that the China-Gesellschaft plans to send a delegation to China in the near future.)

The China-Gesellschaft explicitly denies that there will be any competition with existing groups such as the Ostasiatischer Verein, the Institut fuer Asienkunde, and the China-Committee of the Ostausschuss der deutschen Wirtschaft. The denial cannot be taken at face value in view of the published objectives of the new group. Some of the specific plans of the China-Gesellschaft, as described in detail in enclosure 2, are to:

- (a) Sponsor lectures, films, publications, exhibits, etc.
- (b) Arrange for academic exchanges and scholarships, and personal contact between Germans and Chinese in both countries.
- (c) Arrange for specialists to go to China to help in the development of that country.
- (d) Promote the study of the German and Chinese languages in the two countries, with the first project being the publication of a pocket dictionary of the Chinese language for Germans.

Comment:

The membership of the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft is made up largely of persons dissatisfied with the Federal Republic's China policy. Some are probably motivated by the desire for personal prestige and others by the hope that this new organization will offer them lucrative commercial contacts with Communist China. The Deutsche China-Gesellschaft offers the Chinese a potential propaganda outlet and the possible nucleus of a "China lobby" on the German political scene. To date the new group does not appear to have much influence, despite the important names among the list of founders, but it is still too early to offer a considered judgment concerning its future. The Deutsche China-Gesellschaft should, of course, not be confused with the Institut fuer Asienkunde, a scholarly and scientific institution which recently opened offices in Hamburg.

Edward S. Kirby
American Consul General

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List of Members of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board
of the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft - McGraw-Hill

First Chairman: Wolf SCHENKE *

First Deputy Chairman: Hermann SCHWANN *

Second Deputy Chairman: Eduard J. SOLICH *

Treasurer: Fritz HARTIG

Other Members of Vorstand:

(Dr) Rudolf WELLMANN *
Botschafter a. D. Werner-Otto von HENTIG*
(Dr) Herbert MUELLER *
Claus RICKERS *
(Frau) Lucie STENZ

Beirat Members:

(advisory)

(Dr) Fritz BLÜTHGEN
(Prof) Karl CRAUCH
(Prof) Egon von BECKSTEDT
(Dr) Franz ESSER
Gerhard FLATOW
Friedrich FUHRMEISTER *
Gerhard GRÜTZMACHER *
(Prof. Dr) Erich HAENISCH
(Prof. Dr) HERRFARDT
Erwin van HAZEBOUCK
Rudolf HILLMANN
(Dr) Emil HOFFMANN
Günter KAUFMANN
(Dr) Franz KAHN
Erich LEISER
Ewald LOESER
Heinz-Günther KRETTIG
(Dr) Hjalmar SCHACHT *
Fritz SECKER
(Prof) Fritz TRAUTMANN
Otto ZWILL

* Member of the founding committee. (The names of Albrecht FOSKE and (Dr) Fritz WERTHEIMER were on the list of members of the founding committee but did not appear on the list of Vorstand and Beirat members. They may possibly be ordinary members of the China-Gesellschaft. Among the "ordinary" members are two former Kfz-Mechaniker: (Dr) Andreas HERMES and von RUMER.)

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AMONGEN HAMBURG

(Translated from the German)

Why Deutsche China-Gesellschaft (German China Society)?

One of the greatest events in the history of this century, one which will influence many future generations, is the conversion of medieval China with its present population of 625 million people into a modern industrialized state. What do we know about this empire which until a few years ago was nothing but an object of world politics? The number of people in Germany who know the old China is small and only a few know the new, the changing China. This situation is unworthy of our people and disadvantageous to its vital interests. It will be one of the most important tasks of the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft to overcome it.

A society which will devote itself to the promotion and deepening of mutual understanding and friendly relations between the German and Chinese peoples is needed even more because diplomatic relations do not yet exist between the Federal Republic and China and because the contest for China has started from all sides.

Among its other undertakings, the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft will

1. widen and deepen among the German people knowledge about China through lectures, periodical publications, films, exhibitions, etc;
2. make possible study tours to China, exchange scholarships and guest professorships, personal meetings of Germans and Chinese in China and Germany;
3. promote economic cooperation of the two countries supplementing each other in the structure (sic) of their national economies, doing so by disseminating information to the Germany economy concerning the economic development and economic possibilities in China and by informing the Chinese economy about the development and supply potential of the German economy;
4. initiate the exchange of experts who can help China in its development and enable the Chinese to study in Germany and get on-the-job training;
5. promote the knowledge of the Chinese language in Germany and of the German language in China. In view of the fact that thousands of Germans will tour China in the years to come, it is planned to compile first a "Pocket Dictionary of the Chinese Language."

Last year when two of the signatories^{1/} discussed in Peking with representatives of that government the chances existent for the work of a

^{1/} Two of the founders of the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft.

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Deutsche China-Gesellschaft, high-ranking personalities up to the Minister President (sic) gave assurances that such a society could perform very useful work in the field of German-Chinese relations, even if no diplomatic relations exist between the Federal Republic and China at present. The Chinese "Society for Foreign Relations" will be commissioned to maintain constant personal contact and to correspond with the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft. In several interviews conducted in Switzerland recently, a close assistant to Prime Minister Chou En-lai again gave the assurance that immediately after the founding of an organization such as the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft Peking will extend all possibilities for co-operation. The Chinese diplomat pointed out how much relations between the Japanese and the Chinese have been intensified recently despite the lack of diplomatic recognition. Last year far more than 1,000 Japanese visited China individually and in groups - among them economists, scientists, artists, and politicians, including deputies of even the government party; a permanent Japanese office of consulting engineers has already been opened in Peking. During the first half of this year this development has become still more intense. The assurance was given that shortly after the foundation of the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft a larger delegation would be welcome in China.

The Deutsche China-Gesellschaft will not act in competition against existing associations, such as, for example, the Far Eastern Association (OAV) and the German Far East Association (DOAG - Deutsche Ostasiatische Gesellschaft, whose headquarters is in West Berlin). The OAV and the DOAG cover the whole of East Asia, the OAV even including India and Indonesia. But the 625 million nation of the Chinese, in an area the size of Europe (up to the Ural Mountains), is of such extraordinary importance for the future development of the world, and especially for Germany, that the cultivation of international relations (with that country) must be taken care of by a separate society, just as the German-French and German-British societies, etc., exist alongside the Europa-Union. Furthermore, much of the work of the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft will be devoted to the cultivation of human contacts and the meeting of Germans and Chinese... moreover, the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft would appreciate it if members of the present societies covering the whole of East Asia - among whom there are also some of the founders (of this organization) - would also become members of the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft, if they are particularly interested in China.

We regret the political contrast (Gegensätzlichkeit) between the continent and Taiwan (Formosa). Our friendship goes out to the whole Chinese nation and we hope for its early reunification. At present, the East Zone alone derives the benefit from Chinese sympathy for Germany, which has been traditional since the relinquishment of our colonial privileges in China. People and government in China honestly deplore the division of Germany and also have the urgent wish to resume friendly relations with the larger half of Germany. For the sake of mutual advantage the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft will help close the painful gap which exists here.

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